

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4342

UNCLAS PRAGUE 1049

FOR COMMERCE

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, EIND, CZ, US

SUBJECT: BUSINESS TRAVEL: MANAGER VITKOVIC STEEL AND
MACHINERY WORKS; PRESIDENT STROJEXPORT

REF: (A) 10 FAM 916.4; (B) PRAGUE 1041; (C) PRAGUE 697;
(D) PRAGUE 1009, SENT INFO DEPARTMENT

1. ING. RUDOLF PESKA, GENERAL MANAGER, VITKOVIC STEEL AND MACHINERY WORKS, WILL BE TRANSITING UNITED STATES DURING PERIOD JUNE 5 THROUGH JUNE 7, 1973, ENROUTE PRAGUE FROM BRAZIL WHERE HE AND TWO CZECHOSLOVAK TRADE OFFICIALS WILL HAVE MET WITH BRAZILIANS TO DISCUSS MANGANESE PELLETIZATION PROJECT. OFFICIALS ACCOMPANYING PESKA ARE: MR. JAN LAJKA, PRESIDENT STROJEXPORT, FOREIGN TRADE COMPANY RESPONSIBLE FOR PURCHASES OF INDUSTRIAL HEATING EQUIPMENT AND FURNACES FROM ABROAD, AND JAROMIR VRKOC, DIRECTOR, STROJEXPORT. LAJKA AND PESKA WILL DEPART PRAGUE MAY 27 FOR BRAZIL, WITH POSSIBLE LAYOVER IN NEW YORK MAY 28-29.

2. EMBOFF MET WITH PESKA, LAJKA, AND VRKOC DURING PERSONAL CALL AT EMBASSY MAY 14 FOR VISA INTERVIEW (REFTEL D) AND SUGGESTED POSSIBLE STOPWAOFF IN U. S. FOR COMMERCIAL DISCUSSIONS RELATED TO LICENSING OPPORTUNITY REPORTED REF (B). PESKA AND COLLEAGUES
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WERE HIGHLY RECEPTIVE TO IDEA, EVEN TO POINT OF
EXTENDING STAY IN U. S. BY TWO DAYS (THROUGH JUNE 8)
THUS NECESSITATING RETURN TO PRAGUE VIA PAN AM
RATHER THAN CSA FLIGHT DEPARTING JUNE 7.

3. GROUP WOULD BE VERY INTERESTED IN VISITING STEEL-
MAKING FACILITIES WHERE BOTTOM- BLOWN BASIC OXYGEN
CONVERTER (Q- BOF) PRESENTLY IN OPERATION . THEY WOULD
BE PREPARED TO VISIT PITTSBURGH, GARY, OR ELSEWHERE
IF FEASIBLE IN ORDER TO SEE FACILITIES OF TYPE IN
WHICH THEY ARE INTERESTED. PESKA, IN PARTICULAR,
WOULD BE PLEASED TO HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT FAIRFIELD
MACHINE COMPANY, INC., LOCATED IN COLUMBIANA, OHIO.
WHILE HIS INTEREST IS APPARENTLY IN CONNECTION WITH
Q- BOF PROCESS, EMBASSY NOTES FROM THOMAS REGISTER
THAT FIRM ALSO PRODUCES PIPE AND TUBE MILL EQUIPMENT;
STRIP AND PLATE MILLS' PROCESSING LINES; AS WELL AS
OTHER SPECIAL STEELMAKING EQUIPMENT.

4. IN EMBASSY VIEW, ALTHOUGH Q- BOF PROCESS IS PRESENT
FOCUS OF INTEREST, IT CLEAR THAT WIDER OPPORTUNITIES
EXIST FOR U. S. SUPPLIERS OF STEELMAKING EQUIPMENT
AT VITKOVICE AND, THROUGH STROJEXPORT, PERHAPS ELSE-
WHERE IN CZECHOSLOVAK STEEL INDUSTRY. (SEE, IN THIS
REGARD, REFTEL (C) WHICH REPORTS A SIMILAR TRADE
OPPORTUNITY AT KOSICE STEEL WORKS IN SLOVAKIA.)

5. COMMERCE IS REQUESTED TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER THERE
WOULD BE INTEREST ON PART OF U. S. EQUIPMENT SUPPLIERS
AND LICENSORS IN MEETING WITH THIS HIGH- LEVEL GROUP

DURING PERIOD JUNE 6 THROUGH JUNE 8 AND, IF SO, TO
ARRANGE SUITABLE APPOINTMENTS INCLUDING PLANT VISITS IF
POSSIBLE. IN VIEW SHORT TIME REMAINING BEFORE GROUP
IS TO DEPART FOR RIO DE JANEIRO, COMMERCE SHOULD
SOUND OUT APPROPRIATE FIRMS IN U. S. THIS WEEK. EMBASSY
HAS PROMISED TO INFORM PESKA BY MONDAY, MAY 21, WHETHER SUITABLE
PROGRAM IN U. S. CAN BE ARRANGED.

6. PESKA AND LAJKA UNDERSTAND SOME ENGLISH. VRKOC
IS FLUENT IN ENGLISH AND WILL ACT AS INTERPRETER.
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EXACT ITINERARY FOR GROUP WILL BE PROVIDED WHEN
POSSIBILITY OF SUITABLE PROGRAM IN U. S. ESTABLISHED.
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